

THE WILSON BULLETIN

A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to the Study of Living Birds.
Official Organ of the Wilson Ornithological Club.

Edited by **LYNDS JONES.**

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EDITORIAL.

The editor's absence from Oberlin during the summer and early autumn is responsible for the great delay in the appearance of this number of the BULLETIN. This delay was foreseen and announced in May. It is anticipated that if there are any further delays they will be slight.

Promptness in the appearance of the BULLETIN largely depends upon contributors. It is important that copy intended for any issue should reach the editor not later than the 25th of the month preceding the issue. Copy for the December number should reach the editor's desk by November 25. Will you not attend to this matter at once and help to make the December number better than any which has yet been issued?

The article entitled "Birds from a Car Window Again" in this number is intended as the first of a series relating to the editor's studies on the Washington coast. Succeeding articles will be illustrated. The object of these articles will be to acquaint the reader with the cardinal features of certain restricted areas or islands which are representative, and give as much of the life histories of characteristic birds as the short period of study warrants.

In former numbers of the BULLETIN the editor has urged the importance of studies of juvenile plumages of even the commonest of our birds. Not only is there a great deal of the past history of the species wrapped up in the color patterns of the young birds, even looking back to their ancestry, but there is abundant material here for throwing light upon evolutionary processes. It is doubtless true that most of us are not now interested in making deductions from our bird studies, being content with the pleasure it affords as a pastime, but it cannot long remain merely a pleasurable means of spending idle moments without awakening desires to know the meaning of it all. In preparation for that time be acquainting yourself with as many phases of bird life as possible. Become a *trained* ornithologist. Be accurate in all your work.

It would be impossible to predict anything concerning the coming winter, but after such a phenomenal spring it would not be at all surprising if we should find some unusual things among the birds. The writer has probably not been in a position to note the fall migrations in their bearing upon the spring movement northward, but it has seemed that birds have been less common than during previous southward movements. The lateness of their arrival upon their breeding grounds may have resulted in fewer young being brought to maturity than under normal conditions. As a single example, the Alder Fly-catcher has been a common breeding bird along the borders of the Sandusky Bay marshes, particularly in the shrubbery bordering the swamp margin of the sand spit. The past summer I looked in vain for any at all, and found very few at any place along the lake shore where many usually breed. This scarcity may have resulted from other causes than the late spring. At any rate the winter birds will certainly be worth careful study. A large number of winter lists accompanied by notes would make interesting reading for the March BULLETIN.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1908.

Notices for nominations should have been sent out in September, but the President's absence made that impracticable. Nominations for all officers except Vice-President should be made at once and sent to Lynds Jones, Oberlin, Ohio. If this is attended to at once ballots can be distributed in time for the election at the regular time, Dec. 5.

In this connection the present incumbent wishes to say that it will not be possible for him to attend to the duties of the President's office during the coming year, and that he is therefore not a candidate for renomination.